

July 10, 1959

Dr. Leonard A. Herzenberg
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Len:

Thanks for your several letters including that of July 8th.
I'm sorry to have been a little tardy in formulating a reply.

I am happy to note that you have been in direct touch with Gorsline. I should like to see copies of the plans although he will doubtless bring the whole set over for review before they are finalized. I can't give you final word yet about your temporary quarters, a problem on which I am still working. The best bet now may be to try to hold on to the two labs which we now occupy in the Biophysics Building -- the ones you saw when you were here. I am reasonably confident that we can hold on to room 202 to house Nossal and yourself. With some luck, we may be able to keep 206 for Nossal and his post-doctoral fellow and some of the larger equipment the two of you would share, and 206 for yourself. The most likely event, however, is that you and Nossal would, pro tem, share the use of room 202 and the office 202-A. These will really be very nice rooms and the main problem is to find some make-shift furniture that you can use for the time being. We will have to move out some of the furniture we have been using in order to set it up in the lab in the Medical Center but I think we might leave some of it for you and find other pieces to suit. Very little has been built into these rooms -- in fact hardly anything except the counters and sinks on the west walls. However, I think you should be able to manage at least as well as we have and in fact you will be very considerably less crowded. I see no reason that you shouldn't order all of the equipment that you plan to use and have it either installed in your lab here or leave it to be stored until your Medical Center lab is set up. In any case, there are bound to be delays in delivery. We have already bought two items, a Beckman UV Spectrophotometer and a Zeiss Phase Microscope so as to get them covered on a group bid which saved us a fair discount. I have committed some departmental funds for the purpose and any redistribution of funds from your own grant can be taken care of at leisure. You will have to send your orders through this department anyhow so you might just as well send me the list directly. Please make out as explicit a list as possible so that the orders can go out directly. I think it would be a good idea to have the date of the award moved to September 1. Would you check with Dr. Ray as to the desirable procedure for this?

Apropos your manuscript, I have no opinions as to whether it is "presumptuous" there can be no quarrel with the development of the

topic on pages one and two. I would suggest the term RNA receptor which has been extensively used for the polynucleotide to which amino acid attaches. However, I must confess that I find page three to be non sequitur -- at least I couldn't follow the reasoning by which you explain the "paradox." If I understand the hypothesis correctly, you might expect your suppressor genes to influence the placement of a particular amino acid in most or all of the polypeptides of the organism. What must be confusing me is your picture of the ultimate determination by DNA of the structure of the receptors. I would have imagined that the specific segment of each receptor was specified in the DNA every time a given amino acid was called for by the code. I don't know whether I am being unnecessarily dense or whether you should try to amplify and clarify your hypothesis. At the instant, I am afraid I can't make any more useful comment on it.

Yours as ever,

Joshua Lederberg